



Richard Ough



Betsy Ough

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A boatswain in the British Navy, Richard Ough was born May 14, 1790, at Cornwall, England. For many years he was a Hudson's Bay Company seaman and came to the Pacific Northwest with Dr. John McLaughlin in 1832 to help establish the post at Fort Vancouver. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in the U. S. District Court in Clark County on November 25, 1851.

Richard was a large man for those days, 6' 2" tall and weighing 240 pounds. In 1838 he took as his bride Princess White Wing, who was the daughter of the Cascades Chief "Slyhorse" Schluyhus and his wife Running Fawn (also known as Latourette Lind). White Wing's people had always lived at Washougal as long as any red man could remember. Richard met her at Fort Vancouver while her father was undertaking some negotiations with Dr. McLaughlin, and it was love at first sight. Richard decided to call her "Betsy" and she kept the name. He persisted in courting her and eventually her father agreed to the wedding with mutual arrangements on both sides, promising friendship between the whites and the Indians. They were married by Dr. McLaughlin sometime in 1838 and because Richard was a Protestant and Dr. McLaughlin was a Catholic, they repeated their vows on November 6, 1842, before J. S. Griffith, a minister at Forest Grove on Tualatin Plains, Oregon. They lived in a log house at Fort Vancouver after their wedding.

The following is found among the letters of Dr. John McLaughlin:

Richard Ough has complained to me that the grog they get is too weak but I believe this is caused by Capt. Kipling having issued to them liquor on his way from England just as it came out of the puncheon, when it is thirty three above...and you know our rule is allow our liquor to the servants at the rate of one third water... and which I have mentioned to Ough.

Richard returned to sea for several voyages, and Mrs. McLaughlin, who was one half Indian, took Betsy into her household and taught her the household arts and cooking of the "white woman." The Oughs were invited to take part in the social